

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. David J Gaskey Reg. # 37,139 on October 28, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 13, line 12, after 'calculating', add the following:

-- by a processor – and line 14, after 'comparing".

In claim 13, line 14, after 'comparing', add the following:

-- by a processor –.

Remarks: The above change(s) is/are to define the invention better and to avoid 35 USC § 101 concern.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-19 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The examiner agrees with Applicant's argument regarding claims 1-19 that there is no objective suggestion to combine the Robar et al., Blum and Parrini et al. references to teach the system, assembly and method of monitoring an elevator support structure condition, including the means and steps of translating at least one of the measured electrical characteristic and an electrical characteristic of at least one portion of a virgin support structure to correspond with a reference temperature to reflect an effect of a temperature as indicated by said at least one temperature sensor, wherein a value corresponding to the measured electrical characteristic is a measured value and a value corresponding to the electrical characteristic of the virgin support structure is a reference value, and calculating a difference between the measured value and the reference value and compares a value corresponding to the difference with a predetermined threshold to determine a support structure condition, as recited in the independent claims 1, 8 and 13. Claims 2-7, 9-12 and 14-19 are allowed based on dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Xiuqin Sun whose telephone number is (571)272-2280. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Dunn can be reached on (571)272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/X. S./
Examiner, Art Unit 2863

/Tung S. Lau/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2863
October 29, 2009